pressions, are, to a reflecting mind, quite sufficient to account for the rapid depopulation of the islands within the last fifty or sixty years/' Or again: " The depopulation since their discovery may be easily accounted for thus/'

Now the missionaries cannot have it both ways. Halving Captain Cook's possibly exaggerated statement, when Tahiti was discovered it carried, under heathenism, 100,000 inhabitants. After the fifty years which saw the introduction of venereal disease, gunpowder and alcohol, Mr. Ellis reckoned 10,000. Publishing his book in 1829 he wrote : " The philanthropist will rejoice to know, that although sixteen years ago the nation appeared on the verge of extinction, it is now, under the renovating and genial principles of true religion, and the morality with which this is inseparably connected, rapidly increasing/* Alas for the " philanthropist " of the early Victorian

period!
Tahiti has been Christian for a century, and to-day,
if it can boast even as many as 10,000 inhabitants
as a round number, I doubt if there are 500 of the
old pure Tahitian blood. If the Chinese and
Europeans and half-castes withdrew, Tahiti might